

German Democratic Republic

FDD Abstract [REDACTED]

TRACK CONDITIONS IN RBD BERLIN (10 pp; German; [REDACTED])

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The document is a typewritten report, [REDACTED] and entitled "Critical Study of Track Conditions in the Territory of the Reichsbahn Directorate Berlin." Its frankly critical tenor and the complete absence of the usual political propaganda may indicate that it was written in the Western sector of Berlin.

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The report is subdivided into trackage for steam operation and trackage for electrified urban and suburban traffic. Within these categories, trackage is classified into three orders, according to importance, and again subdivided into main tracks and other trackage. Switches and narrow-gauge trackage are listed separately.

Main trackage of the first order is overage. After World War II, 50 kilometers of track and 40 kilometers of ties should have been replaced annually, whereas actually only 50 kilometers of ties and 10 kilometers of track have been replaced since 1945. For proper maintenance, 250 kilometers of new track and 350 kilometers of ties would be required at present, but the 1951 quota calls for no ties and only 16 kilometers of new track. The present track condition is not yet hazardous, but it necessitates an increasing number of track sections with speed limitations.

Conditions are similar on the urban electrified railroad (S-Bahn). But special conditions here cause even greater wear of tracks. At present, the S-Bahn would need 200 kilometers of rails, including 40 kilometers of special wear-resistant rails, and about 70 kilometers of ties for proper maintenance.

Main trackage of the second order covers a total of 930 kilometers, including 550 kilometers of former Land-owned and private railroads. This trackage was originally intended for local traffic but is used today by extra-heavy freight trains. Proper maintenance would require replacement of 250 kilometers of track. The Occupation Power is expected to demand strengthening of certain specified lines, while others may be dismantled.

Other trackage, particularly in shunting yards, has been neglected for 15 years. Because of the political situation, many Berlin shunting stations have lost their importance while others have required expansion. Shunting accidents are increasing as a result of defective trackage.

At present, 1,200 switches are unsafe. In five years, this number may be expected to increase to ~~4~~ 4,000. Brown coal firing creates special problems by clogging ballast with ashes; also, the sulfur in the ashes forms an acid ~~rock~~ which attacks all steel parts of the roadbed.

The report then gives several tables listing materials necessary for a five-year track replacement program. It adds, however, that procurement of the necessary quantities of wooden ties and steel parts seems rather improbable. The program would require an annual expenditure of 52 million Deutsche marks as compared with the present budget of 10 million Deutsche marks.

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FDD Abstract

APPRAISAL OF THE GDR AGRICULTURAL SITUATION (2 pp; German,

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This report consists of two pages, carbon copies of typewritten material, from the Landwirtschaftsrat (Agricultural Council) in Berlin, giving a fragmentary, critical appraisal of the agricultural situation in the GDR and concluding with an indication of the Soviets' intent or need to bring West Germany into its sphere of influence.

The introduction of this report presents a table showing the percentage of arable land owned by the various size farms before and after the land reform. The table indicates that the greatest change occurred in farms of 5 - 20 hectares, which covered 31.8 percent of the arable land before land reform and 59.6 after land reform; and in farms of over 100 hectares, whose total arable land declined from 28.4 percent of the total, to 3.6 percent after the land reform.

The report goes on to warn against exaggeration of the planning principle, because such exaggeration will do more harm than good. It then lists briefly the many reasons for the shortcomings of GDR agriculture and states why exaggerations in cultivation plans, threshing plans, delivery quotas, and schedules and their enforcement have had bad results. The hectare yield of root crops remained until 1950 below the prewar yields. The last part of the report criticizes the delivery system for agricultural products and concludes with the following note: "The second phase of the land reform, the collectivization or cooperative economy, is coming. Its fulfillment will create an entirely new state of affairs. But all these measures will be relaxed so as not to alienate the farmer in the West. Cooperative economy is around the corner and will become reality the moment the West falls into the Soviet orbit."

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/Foreign language document of microfilm of it is available from CIA Library,

30 Oct 1951

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